

Mexico Weekly Ledger

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

R. M. WHITE, EDITOR.

A MEXICAN POET.

Mexico has a poet who calls her "Cousin Lou," and the cheerful larder of the LEDGER encourages rising star in the Tennysonian constellation, by publishing her effusions in his paper. Her latest effort is the "Wreck of the Circassian," and here is the first blood-curdling stanza:

They were sitting in the cabin,
Having a good time all around,
When they heard an awful cracking,
Oh, what terror in that sound!
As they rushed out of the cabin door
They heard the mighty ocean roar.

Angels and ministers of grace, defend us! How thrillingly is the situation depicted. The human imagination can picture nothing more terrible than to "hear an awful cracking, while you're having a good time all around." It's enough to make each particular hair to stand erect like quills upon the fretful porcupine.

But the "cracking" didn't let up: "They rushed upon the deck" and "stomped up the fore mast," and

While they clung there wet and cold
The mast began to crack and shake.
So down they came with throbbing hearts
For they thought it was going to break
They cried for mercy and they swooned
When the mizen-mast they reached.

Jess so; and Jerusalem! who wouldn't have "screamed" when he reached the "mizen mast" and "stomped" such thought as that?

But it is enough to freeze the blood in a fellow's veins to pursue the grand climactic:

But they could not fight the storm,
It was mightier than they,
The mast it split and cracked
And at last it gave away.
And they, falling to the sea,
In a moment were in eternity.

Cousin Lou's patent dress supporter caught on the jib boom and saved her from falling into the sea and flopping into eternity—see, hence this poem, shall ever feel grateful to the inventor of that patented dress supporter had it not been for him, "Cousin Lou" would have died with all her in her.

Lou you're a brick; you're a team and a big dog under the wagon, and a tar-bucket.—Enterprise-Monitor.

The above is given as a digest, from the pen of an able and genuine specimen of "Mark Twain's Innocence Abroad" and our predictions are that when his eloquent effusions once come before the public, that he will have a genuine neck-tie party supported by a piece of Cousin Lou's patent dress, and swung up to the dizzy mast, and when the infare is over he will soon vamoose to where the woodchucks twinkle and "flee into the mountains of Hempsidameth, where the lion roareth and the whang-doodle mourneth for the spirit of his first born eh."

We feel sorry for his condition, we don't see why he don't smother for it, and if he does now what to inhale, we advise take a few doses of tacks and a of those tooth-picks he used to put in out of the Merchants Hotel after gentlemen had thrown them away, and sharpen up his wits a little.

Come again Bro. this is better than your first one.

The St. Louis Republican of the 12th inst., has the following:

DEATH OF MR. ROBERT DEATHERAGE.—A report was current at the Laclede hotel last evening of the death, at Mexico, Mo., of Robert Deatherage, who had been stopping at the Laclede. He went up some ten days ago to Mexico, where his wife was spending the winter with relatives. Information of the illness of Mr. Deatherage was received here a day or two ago, and his death was not wholly unexpected.

Mr. Deatherage died in this city at the Ringo house on Sunday night at 12 o'clock. His remains were removed to Carrollton.

We would like to know what blacksmith ever threw together the forms of the Enterprise-Monitor. Under his advertisement he chuckled in the line—Arrivals yesterday—to fill out the columns—uv course.

The Vice-President of Hardin College arrived last Sunday at 2 p. m. and has been inaugurated.

Notice of farms to sell and J. P. Clark & Son in another

B. Cluster, our deputy sheriff thanks for favors this week.

SPEECH OF HON. A. H. BUCKNER.

DELIVERED

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, January 25, 1877.

MR. BUCKNER. Mr. Speaker, I avail myself of the privilege accorded by the honorable gentleman from Ohio (Mr. Payne) to those who desire to present the reasons of their vote on this bill, to submit some of the grounds of my approval of it.—As an original proposition, disconnected from the circumstances surrounding us, few could be found who would favor it. It is by its terms temporary in its operation and obviously an expedient to tide the country and the Government over the perils of the next six weeks. Its necessity grows out of the fact that a gigantic conspiracy has been organized to defeat the popular will expressed at the late election by the use of any means, whether fair or foul, and that this conspiracy, organized by the worst element of the party in power, supported by the patronage as well as by the military and naval arms of the Government and defended by a corrupt and venal press, threatens to become a success. One of the chief props of this nefarious plot was the bold and impudent assertion that by the Constitution and by the practice of Congress in the past the President of the Senate was vested with the duty and powers not only of opening the certificates of the electors but of counting the ballots by them for President and Vice-President. It is this audacious "pretension," which, in the language of a leading Republican Senator, "staggers human credulity," that gives to this conspiracy its formidable and dangerous character; and when it is well known that the President has determined to use the military power of the Government to protect and defend the candidate thus made President by the presiding officer of the Senate, the situation becomes full of peril and solicitude.

If the distinguished leaders of the Republican party, who by the very terms of the bill now under consideration, as well as by their very conclusive arguments on the floor of the Senate, have repudiated and denounced this groundless pretension, had proclaimed their opinions as to the want of power of the President of the Senate at the opening of this session, in all human probability the desperate politician tricksters who conceived and originated this conspiracy would have lashed in their criminal course, and the presidential successors might have been settled without the passage of this bill.—They were dumb when they should have spoken from the house-tops; their lips were sealed when duty to their country, as well as to their party, demanded that they should break their silence. But for this dereliction of duty, this miserable pretension would have died the death of the ridiculous, and Congress saved the necessity of this discussion and of the passage of this bill. Nor is it likely that this bill would have been necessary, certainly not in the form now presented, if the people who supported the candidates receiving nearly a quarter of a million majority of the votes at the late election, both in Congress and out of it, had shown the same boldness, determination, and pluck which their ancestors did when a similar attempt was made by the federalists of 1801 to defeat the popular will and inaugurate a revolution.

It is well known that Jefferson and Burr were the Republican and Democratic candidates for President at the election of 1800, the Constitution then providing that the candidate receiving the highest number of votes should be President and the next highest Vice-President. They each received 73 electoral votes, and neither having a majority of the whole college, upon the House of Representatives, voting by states, was devolved the duty of electing the President. For several days the balloting went on, neither candidate having obtained a majority of states, the Republicans voting for Jefferson and the federalists for Burr, when it was well known by everybody that the people, who voted for both of them voted for the former for President and the latter for Vice-President. The progenitors of the present Republican party determined to defeat and thwart the clearly expressed will of the people, and, finding that some of their party friends could not be brought to support Burr, they proposed to defer the balloting until the 3d of March, and then pass an act devolving the Government for the next four years on the President of the Senate, who would have been the

creature of the federalists of that body. Mr. Jefferson and his friends made no secret of their purpose in the event of such an act, of revolution being attempted. They openly proclaimed their fixed resolution to resist any attempt of this sort by force, and it is a part of the history of the country that the Governors of two great states of the Union were preparing to put the militia of their states on a war footing. The conspirators of 1801 quailed before the outraged indignation of a free people, and Mr. Jefferson was elected President by the House, notwithstanding then, as now, this opposition to him and his party had control of the Government in all its departments, legislative, executive and judicial.

Mr. Speaker, I have never doubted that, if the Democratic party had pursued the same course with our ancestors of 1801, if they had treated the pretension of the President of the Senate to count the electoral vote and declare who was elected President as a bold usurpation and an act of revolution that under no circumstances would be submitted to, if the resolution of the conventions of the 8th of January of the great states of Ohio, Illinois and Indiana had been followed up by the states of the East and Northeast, this wicked and dangerous conspiracy of the men who have, by their misgovernment, peculations and corruptions, brought disgrace and defeat to their party would have been abandoned and the will of the people as expressed last November carried out. But, sir, such seems to have been the sentiment of those whose duty it was to act in this matter. It is a mistake, however, to suppose that the pretension that the President of the Senate could alone count the electoral vote is the only difficulty to a peaceful and satisfactory solution of the difficulties surrounding the presidential succession. That "pretension" being admitted, all other difficulties vanish before the exercise of this one-man power. But consigning this pretension to the grave of forgotten follies, as the provisions of this bill in fact do, there are several disputed questions which make their appearance, and must find a solution. Conceding that the count of the electoral vote is to be made by the two Houses and that each House has equal power and prerogative in making it, the troublesome question arises whether it requires a concurrent vote of both Houses to reject as well as to affirm or count a vote. At no time in the history of the Government has this question assumed the importance or the character it now possesses. We have had the votes of the states in dispute, but we have never had such dispute in a condition of things like the present, that is, when the disputed votes were decisive of the result and when both Houses of Congress differed in their political complexion. Up to this time the votes of disputed states were not decisive of the result or both Houses were of the same political faith. Hence it is that the question as to the power of each House to count or reject a vote must be decided or the probabilities are that no result would be reached by both Houses by the 4th of March.—And this is neither a constitutional question—one that has been decided by uniform and unbroken precedent—or one about which any fair-minded reflecting mind can have any reasonable doubt. It is the rock on which the bill of 1800 was wrecked between the two Houses.

In the bill of 1824, passed in the Senate under the leadership of Mr. Van Buren, and approved by Mr. Webster, then Chairman of the Judiciary Committee of the House, each House must concur in the rejection of a vote, or it was entitled to be counted. The twenty-second joint rule, adopted in 1865, rejected the vote of either House failed to approve it. Amid the doubt and uncertainty on this mooted question, it is absolutely essential that some agreement should be had or we may drift into anarchy, an interregnum, the usurpation of the President of the Senate, or something worse.

Thus situated, as we are, it seems to me that there can be no excuse for a negative on this bill, unless it is believed that the two Houses cannot count the electoral vote under the Constitution or there is some other valid constitutional objection to it. If there were any doubt as to the phraseology of the Constitution, the long and unbroken line of precedent for seventy-five years ought to set this question at rest. A great jurist has said that—

Constitutions are not theories proposed for ingenious speculation, but fundamental laws ordained for practical purposes once ascertained by judicial interpretation and contented acquiescence, they are laws in that sense until the power that made them thinks proper to change them.

There is nothing settled or that can be settled by continuous and unbroken usage and by the opinions of statesmen of all political parties both living and dead, unless it is the power and duty of "the Senate and House of Representatives," sitting as "unimpaired bodies," to examine and decide the validity or invalidity of the electoral vote and count the same. I assume that to be the mandate of the

Constitution, as the bill before us concedes. But it is urged as an objection to this bill that it divests the two Houses of their power and authority to count the electoral vote and transfers it to the judges of the Supreme Court. But it is obvious that neither objection has any foundation in fact. It neither delegates its power and authority to the courts, nor does Congress in any way divest itself of its complete jurisdiction over the matter. The duties imposed upon the judges are imposed upon them as citizens and not as justices to the Supreme Court; just as Justice Nelson was confirmed as one of the high joint commission that made the Geneva award. They are selected because of their judicial training, their pre-eminent learning, and exalted position and character; but if Congress had the same right to command their services, five judges of any of the states of the Union might have been selected just as well.

Nor does the bill divest the two Houses of their jurisdiction and control over the count. The commission of fifteen occupy the same relation to Congress that a matter in chancery or reference bears to the court that appoints him. He is instructed with the discharge of certain duties in aid of the court, and he may be required to decide both questions of law and fact, and make his report to the court by which he is appointed. But his judgment is subject to the confirmation or disapproval of the court; just as the opinion of the commission authorized by this bill is subject to rejection by the concurrent action of both Houses. The two Houses by concurrent action still maintain their control over the judgment of the commission, and it may be reversed if both Houses concur in so doing. But this is objected to, not because it is unconstitutional, but I suppose on the ground that either House, as under the joint rule of 1865, should have authority to reject a vote of a state. I do not purpose going into this mooted question. It is sufficient to say that it is one on which the two Houses may well compromise, and on which the Constitution is silent, and the usage far from being uniform. There is no superiority given to the one House over the other, but each stands on the same plane, with equal right to judge and decide, to confirm or reject; and surely it is quite as competent for Congress to regulate its own action in this regard, as it would be to enact that where the circuit and district judges are sitting on a trial of a cause the report of a reference should not be disapproved by the concurrence of both judges. By an act of the last Congress a commission was appointed by the two Houses, with power given to them to select two experts, who should report upon the remuneration of the silver dollar and other kindred questions. We have not divested ourselves of our constitutional jurisdiction over the question any more than the present bill divests the two Houses of their control of the electoral count, and I know of no law or constitutional prohibition which would have prevented Congress from providing that the recommendation of this silver commission should not be overruled except by the action of both Houses.

Mr. Speaker, the validity or invalidity of the disputed electoral votes are judicial rather than legislative or political questions. When once it is ascertained that the votes are legal, constitutional and valid votes, the act of counting them is purely ministerial. And it is well that eminent judges, in connection with the best judicial minds of each House, be empowered to examine and pass upon the questions involved. They are required by this bill to be sworn to act impartially and decide the questions submitted to them to the best of their ability, and I have confidence that the judges selected, as well as the members of the two Houses that may be joined with them, will honestly and faithfully do their duty, not alone to their party, but to their consciences, their country, and their God.

Prof. Treloar on last Monday night organized a choir of about 50 of our best singers at the Music Store of Wm. O. Lee & Co. It is their intention shortly to give us a rendition of "Belshazzar." We understand it will be a very brilliant affair.

We'd like to see that fellow tackle "Nebuchadnezzar."—Enterprise-Monitor.

Well old toper, you had better go back to the days of "Auld Lang Syne" and learn how to spell Nebuchadnezzar before you poke your 'tarnal old corn-grabbers into any other persons pot. We acknowledge the fact, that "where ignorance is bliss 'tis folly to be wise, but we think if you would attend Josh Billings' spelling school, you would astonish yourself in a few days. Come at us again and give us an easy word such a one as you can spell with ease—rot-gut-benzine.

Subscriptions to the Enterprise-Monitor continues to pour in.—Enterprise-Monitor.—Yes, into the edi-

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Notice is hereby given that at the March Term of the Probate Court of Audrain county, I will make a final settlement of my administration of the estate of Limon Nitting, deceased. C. A. LEASE, Adm'r.

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